GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4511
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005
FRUITS SPOILED BY DISEASES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has suffered huge losses as huge quantity of fruits are destroyed due to diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any research has been conducted by the Government to check these diseases;

(d) if not, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION {SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The extent of losses vary from crop to crop, disease to disease and season to season. The major losses occur due to anthracnose fruit rot, stem-end rot and aspergillus in mango; anthracnose fruit rot in papaya; fruit spot, phomopsis fruit rot in pomegranate; aspergillus, yeast, powdery mildew, downy mildew and anthracnose in grape; anthracnose fruit rot in banana and aspergillus fruit rot in citrus, cigar end rot, anthracnose, crown rot and four viral diseases viz. bunchy top, bract mosaic, streak and mosaic in banana and plantains.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Research is conducted at various ICAR Institutes/National Research Centres/State Agriculture Universities. Research on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in fruit crops before harvest to reduce the post harvest losses have been conducted. Fungicide spray schedule for various diseases have been standardized. A comprehensive study has been conducted in assessing the pre and post harvest losses in case of citrus at Nagpur and a complete package of recommendation/ technologies to reduce the post harvest losses in citrus fruits has been worked out. The technologies developed have helped in reducing the post harvest losses in citrus and also extending the shelf life of fruits. With regard to arid fruit crops research is in progress to identify the important diseases, their casual organisms and their control measures. The National Research Centre for Grape has developed diseases forecasting model for powdery mildew, downy mildew and anthracnose. Several, new/safe fungicides were also tested for the management of diseases in grapes. Besides, many environmental friendly organic, bio-control agents and botanicals are recommended in the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Schedule.